From: Hill, Debra
To: Oetker, Susan
Subject: Re: try these on for size
Date: Monday, July 31, 2017 8:14:04 AM

Texas hornshell was listed as a category 2 candidate in 1989, and it became a candidate species as currently defined in 2001. We were petitioned to list it in 2004, and candidate status was upheld.

After it became a candidate species in 2001, the Service began funding the states of Texas and New Mexico through section 6 of the ESA for conservation and monitoring. Through that funding, New Mexico conducted significant population and life history studies as well as landowner outreach. Texas also conducted surveys using that funding. In 2011, a joint section 6 project between the two states resulted in the significant discovery of a large population in the Rio Grande.

In 2013, the Service and BLM began working with landowners, oil and gas and other partners on these rivers to develop a comprehensive conservation agreement for all landownership. These agreements were set to publish in 2016, when the New Mexico State Land commissioner decided that they could not be implemented on NM State Trust Lands. This left out 90,000 acres within the Action Area, and so we began to look for a solution that incorporated State Lands. After working with the State of NM, we were able to develop a parallel agreement, with NM holding the permit for State lands. Unfortunately, this development put us up against a listing decision with unfortunate timing.

On Mon, Jul 31, 2017 at 8:11 AM, Hill, Debra <debra_hill@fws.gov> wrote:

> The Service, along with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department (NMDGF) have been studying the Texas hornshell for twenty years. With the use of Section 6 funding, the Black River now has the most comprehensive population monitoring of any population throughout the range. It is also in this area that the NMDGF built the relationships that laid the foundation for the Candidate Conservation Agreements on the Black and Delaware Rivers, along with reintroducing the species in the Delaware River starting in 2012.
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> On Mon, Jul 31, 2017 at 8:03 AM, Oetker, Susan <susan_oetker@fws.gov> wrote:
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